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DEBRA P. LACKEY
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT ALA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

CLARICE HARE

PLAINTIFF,

VERSUS

G.D. SEARLE, LLC,
(hereinafter "Searle") a subsidiary of
PHARMACIA CORPORATION,
(hereinafter "Pharmacia"), a Foreign
Corporation; MONSANTO COMPANY
PFIZER, INC.; and fictitious Defendants
A, B, C, and D being those persons, firms
or corporations whose actions, inactions,
fraudulent suppression, fraud, scheme to
defraud and/or other wrongful conduct
caused or contributed to the Plaintiff's
injuries or damages, and whose true
names and identities are presently
unknown to Plaintiff but will be
substituted by amendment when
ascertained,

CIVIL ACTION NO.

2:05cv476

DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

TO: United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, and 1446, Defendants G.D. Searle LLC ("Searle"), Pharmacia Corporation ("Pharmacia" and also improperly captioned in Plaintiff's complaint as Monsanto Company, see Paragraph 9), and Pfizer Inc. ("Pfizer") (collectively hereinafter "Defendants") hereby remove this action from the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, State of Alabama to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama Northern Division and allege as follows:

1. Searle, Pharmacia, and Pfizer are the Defendants in this action in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, State of Alabama captioned *Clarice Hare v. G.D. Searle, LLC, et al*, Case # CV 2005 000951.

2. On April 15, 2005 Plaintiff filed this action in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, State of Alabama. This action is brought on behalf of Plaintiff “for injuries resulting in stroke” and “seeks monetary damages for personal injuries pursuant to AL Code Ann. Sec. 11-7-13, [for] damages caused by the drugs named herein and ingested by Plaintiff.” (Complaint ¶ 1).

3. There is jurisdiction over this removed action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441, because this action originally could have been filed in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Specifically, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action because there is the requisite diversity of citizenship between Plaintiff and Defendants and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

I. JURISDICTIONAL BASIS FOR REMOVAL

4. This Court has federal diversity jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because: (1) the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs; and (2) there is the requisite diversity of citizenship among the Plaintiff and Defendants.

A. The Amount In Controversy Is Satisfied

5. It is facially apparent that Plaintiff asserts claims that if proved would exceed \$75,000 exclusive of interests and costs. The following allegations in the Complaint support a finding of the requisite amount in controversy. This is a personal injury product liability action alleging injury arising out of the use of Bextra®, a prescription medication. Plaintiff alleges that Bextra® caused Plaintiff’s stroke and seeks damages for personal injury, mental anguish,

economic (medical expenses), non-economic losses and punitive damages. Defendant denies any wrongdoing.

B. Diversity of Citizenship

6. Plaintiff Clarice Hare is, and at the time suit was filed was, a resident and citizen of the state of Alabama. (Complaint ¶¶ 2, 3).

7. Defendant G.D. Searle LLC was at the time of filing of this action, and still is, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, having its principal place of business in the State of Illinois.

8. Defendant Pharmacia Corporation was at the time of filing of this action, and still is, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, having its principal place of business in the State of New Jersey.

9. Defendant Monsanto Company, as an entity relevant to this action, changed its name to Pharmacia Corporation in 2000, the same entity in Paragraph 8 above.

10. Defendant Pfizer Inc. was at the time of filing of this action, and still is, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, having its principal place of business in the State of New York.

II. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL

11. On April 20, 2005 Pharmacia was served with a copy of the Summons and Petition. Because this Notice of Removal is being filed within 30 days of the service of the Petition on Defendant, it is timely under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b). Defendants who have not been served nevertheless make their appearance and join in this removal.

12. The United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama Northern Division embraces the county in which the state court action is now pending and thus this Court is a proper venue for this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 104(a) and 1441(a).

13. Copies of all process, pleadings and orders are collectively attached to this Notice of Removal as Exhibit "A".

14. Defendants are filing written notice of this removal with the Clerk of the State Court in which the action is currently pending pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1446(d). Copies of the Notice of Filing Notice of Removal together with this Notice of Removal are being served upon Plaintiff's counsel pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).

WHEREFORE, Defendants respectfully remove this action from the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, State of Alabama, bearing case # CV 2005 000951, to this Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence B. Clark", written over a horizontal line.

Lawrence B. Clark
Gilbert C. Steindorff, IV
Wendy A. Madden
Attorneys for G.D. Searle LLC, Pharmacia
Corporation and Monsanto Company


OF COUNSEL:

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205 250-5050

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing pleading has been served on all counsel of record by depositing a copy of same in the United States mail, properly addressed and postage prepaid on this 20th day of May, 2005

Navan Ward, Jr.
Andy D. Birchfield, Jr.
Paul Sizemore
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OF COUNSEL